(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government has decided to re-develop the identified stations first. Other stations would be considered subsequently based on their potential for such development.

Replacement of wooden seats in trains

†924. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was proposed to replace wooden seats in all trains with cushioned seats as per your last year budget;

(b) if so, the number of trains in which this provision has been made, so far, and the number of trains in which this facility has yet to be provided; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this matter and by when this task would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) It was announced in the last year's Budget that new manufacture of unreserved coaches with wooden seats would be stopped and cushioned seats would be provided in such coaches as in the case of sleeper class coaches. Manufacture of new unreserved coaches with cushioned seats has already started in Production Units and 328 such new coaches have so far been manufactured. These coaches have been inducted in service but have not been allotted to specific trains.

Automatic Ticket Vending Machines

925. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to install Automatic Ticket Vending Machines at major railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of installation of each Ticket Vending Machine;

(c) whether it is proposed to rope in private companies for installing the same by providing advertisement space to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the Automatic Ticket Vending Machines are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) So far, 243 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) have been made functional in Mumbai area and 507 more are planned through Railways funding, costing approximately Rs. 3 lakhs each. In addition, 5594 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) covering important stations over all Indian Railway's are proposed to be installed through Partnership model. The modalities are under finalization.

(e) 3000 machines are targeted for installation by March, 2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.